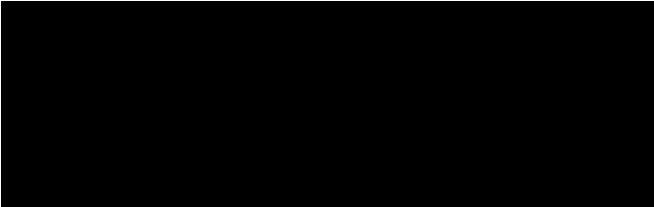


BA

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
20 Mass, Rm. A3042, 425 I Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20536



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services



FILE:

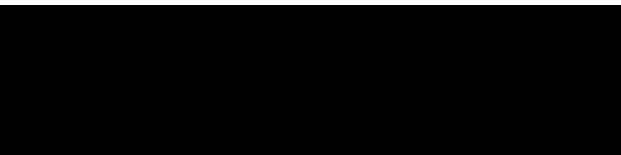


Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

Date: APR 26 2004

IN RE:

Petitioner:
Beneficiary



PETITION: Petition for Special Immigrant Battered Spouse Pursuant to Section 204(a)(1)(A)(iii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1154(a)(1)(A)(iii)

ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER:



PUBLIC COPY

**identifying data deleted to
prevent clearly unwarranted
invasion of personal privacy**

INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office in your case. All documents have been returned to the office that originally decided your case. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.

Cindy N. Gomez for

Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The preference visa petition was denied by the Director, Vermont Service Center, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office on appeal. The appeal will be rejected.

The petitioner is a native and citizen of Jamaica who is seeking classification as a special immigrant pursuant to section 204(a)(1)(A)(iii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1154(a)(1)(A)(iii), as the battered spouse of a United States citizen.

The director determined that the petitioner failed to establish that she has been battered by, or has been the subject of extreme cruelty perpetrated by, the citizen or lawful permanent resident during the marriage; or is the parent of a child who has been battered by, or has been the subject of extreme cruelty perpetrated by, the citizen or lawful permanent resident during the marriage. The director, therefore, denied the petition.

On appeal, counsel asserts that the decision of the director was erroneous because the mental abuse suffered by the petitioner is evident. While counsel indicated that she was sending a brief and/or additional evidence within 30 days, to date, the file contains no further response from the petitioner. Therefore, the record shall be considered complete.

8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(2) states, in pertinent part, that the affected party shall file an appeal, with fee, including any supporting brief with the office where the unfavorable decision was made within 30 days after service of the decision.

8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(2)(v)(B)(1) states, in part:

An appeal which is not filed within the time allowed must be rejected as improperly filed. In such a case, any filing fee the Service has accepted will not be refunded.

Additionally, 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(2)(v)(B)(2) states, in part:

If an untimely appeal meets the requirements of a motion to reopen as described in § 103.5(a)(2) of this part or a motion to reconsider as described in § 103.5(a)(3) of this part, the appeal must be treated as a motion, and a decision must be made on the merits of the case.

Counsel's statement on appeal, on behalf of the petitioner, does not meet the requirements of a motion.

8 C.F.R. § 103.5a(b) states, in part, that whenever a person has the right or is required to do some act within a prescribed period after the service of a notice upon him and the notice is served by mail, three days shall be added to the prescribed period. Service by mail is complete upon mailing.

The record reflects that the director denied the petition on February 12, 2003. The petitioner was advised that she may file an appeal, along with the required fee, within 30 days of the date of the decision. Coupled with 3 days for mailing, the appeal, in this case, should have been filed with Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) no later than March 17, 2003. The appeal was not properly filed with CIS until April 14, 2003.

Based on the applicant's failure to file a timely appeal, the appeal will be rejected.

ORDER: The appeal is rejected.